

Osler, Sir William

[Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford]

Nov. 1914 - Jan 1915

November 13th, 1914

Sir William Osler, Bart.,

Oxford,

England.

My dear Sir William:

Sir Edmund Osler told me yesterday afternoon that you are interesting yourself in providing for the Louvain professors who this year are without a home. It has been suggested that we should do something for them in the University of Toronto. Just what we can do I do not know, but I am writing to you to get information as to what professors have to be cared for and in what departments they belong. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me have this information at your early convenience so that I may report to the Board of Governors.

I am sure that Oxford must be going through a period of great strain this winter, though the response to the call of the country seems to me to be wonderful. We are trying to do something here also. About 1500 of our students are drilling in connection with the Officers Training Corps and we have cut off classes in the afternoon after four o'clock. Probably a number of our men will go in contingents that are to be sent in the future.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 20th, 1915

Sir William Osler, Bart.,
Regius Professor of Medicine,
University of Oxford.

My dear Sir William:

It seems probable that members of our staff will raise some \$1500 to provide salary for a Belgian Professor during the next twelve months. Possibly we may have this amount increased from other sources to \$1800 or \$2000. This should bring a man and his wife here and give them enough to live on during the twelve months. If we can raise the money I feel confident that the Board of Governors will appoint the Professor for the year to the staff to do teaching. We must be careful as to the type of man who comes to us so that he would secure the sympathy of those who are with him on the staff. I have had a letter from Professor Ledoux of the University of Brussels, who is now at Rugby and is evidently in quite needy circumstances. He is a mineralogist, and would like temporary employment in the University and perhaps in the Geological Survey of Canada in the summer. He was wounded at Liege, took part in the defence of Antwerp, and was at the battle of the Yser, where his health failed and he was obliged to leave the army. He refers to Professor Bowman, Magdalen College, Oxford, Professor Lewis of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Professor Spencer of the British Museum. The fact that he has applied to us directly removes our efforts from the realms of the vague to the concrete. Do you happen to know anything about Professor Ledoux? Presumably he is as needy as any one else, and of course wishes to come to Canada for the year. In your

letter to me a month ago you said that a number of the Belgians were suffering from collapse and were unwilling to move. Moreover, in the list that you were good enough to enclose I find so many with wives or children or waifs that it would cost a great deal more to bring them out than in the case of Professor Ledoux.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.